

Conifer Plantation Forest (FCP)

The Conifer Plantation Forest (FCP) map class represents the Plantations (evergreen) Formation (I.A.8.C.a). The official NVCS name for this Formation unit is “Plantations (planted timber stands, Christmas trees)”, which is the same name given to all forested plantations in the NVCS, regardless of evergreen or deciduous. We revised the name slightly to add clarity these plantations are indeed made up of evergreen trees. This Formation is a planted/cultivated type within the NVCS.

Most plantation forests are within the Iowa Yellow River State Forest, mostly within the Luster Heights Unit. These plantations are mostly of red pine and are a product of reforestation efforts by Iowa in the 1940s, converting most of their open lands to trees. Other planted trees function as shelterbelts protecting farmsteads and consist of pine or spruce.

A small plantation of white pine does exist bordering the Yellow River bottomlands. However, with this pine stand <0.25 ha (0.62 acres) in area (<MMU), the pine plantation is included in the surrounding polygon of Ash - Elm - Walnut - Hackberry Semi-natural Forest (FRH). All mapped polygons of FCP are outside EFMO lands.

